GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4140
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
LINKING OF RIVERS
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated for linking of rivers to ensure equitable distribution of water to various States;

(b) whether these schemes would be able to meet the requirements of water for agricultural purposes in the States; and

(c) if so, the present status of schemes and the authority authorised for implementation of the schemes?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. The National Perspective Plan envisages creation of 35 Million hectare of additional irrigation potential. The Government of India established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective for preparation of the feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 6 links under Peninsular Component. Central Government has set up a Task Force to devise suitable mechanism to suggest modalities for arriving at consensus amongst the States for sharing and transfer of surplus water to deficit areas and also to identify the priority links which could be implemented quickly as well as mechanism for their clearance, funding etc.